

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0563

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

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USUN FOR AMB YOUNG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV RH US UK

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: INTERNAL SETTLEMENT: PROBLEMS AHEAD

SUMMARY. TIMES OF ZAMBIA FEBRUARY 22 CARRIES FRONT PAGE STORY BASED ON REPORTING FROM ITS SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN SALISBURY AND INTERVIEW WITH JOSHUA NKOMO. MUZOREWA DENIES A SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA HAS BEEN REACHED, POINTING TO THORNY QUESTION OF CMPOSITON OF INTERIM

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GOVERNMENT AS PROBLEM STILL TO BE RESOLVED. SMITH IS REPORTED AS SAYING HE WILL HEAD INTERIM GOVERNMENT. UANC SOURCES IN SALISBURY SAY GUERRILLAS WOULD BE ABSORBED INTO RHODESIAN ARMY AFTER SUITABLE SCREENING. NKOMO SAYS THERE IS NO CHANCE THAT AN INTERNAL DEAL WILL LEAD TO A CESSION OF THE FIGHTING AND THAT BRITISH HAD FORMULATED THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT LONG AGO.

END SUMMARY.

1.TIMES SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT QUOTES MUZOREWA AS SAYING TALKS THUS FAR HAVE ACHIEVED ONLY ONE THING--AGREEMENT ON THE FRANCHISE. "THERE IS NO SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA"; THERE ARE CRITICAL ISSUES WHICH STILL MUST BE ADDRESSED AND COULD CAUSE THE TALKS TO "COLLAPSE COMPLETELY". ACCORDING TO MUZOREWA, HE IS INSISTING ON WHAT HE CONSIDERS A TRULY MULTIRACIAL GOVERNMENT AND WANTS SMITH OUT OF THE GOVERNMENT. OTHER NATIONALIST SOURCES ARE CREDITED WITH SAYING THAT A WIDE GAP HAS OPENED BETWEEN SMITH AND MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE OVER THE DIVISION OF POWER IN AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT--SMITH DEMANDING THAT WHITES AND BLACKS BE EQUALLY REPRESENTED IN A COUNCIL STATE AND THE NATIONALISTS DEMANDING 75 PERCENT BLACK REPRESENTATION IN COUNCIL OF STATE AND IN A SECOND LEVEL COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. NATIONALISTS ALSO REPORTEDLY ARE INSISTING ON THE DISBANDMENT OF EXISTING PARLIAMENT DURING THE INTERIM PERIOD AND THIS IS STRONGLY RESISTED BY SMITH. SMITH IS QUOTED AS SAYING "THERE MAY BE A NEW FORM OF GOVERNMENT--THAT HAS STILL TO BE DISCUSSED--BUT ONE THING IS QUITE CLEAR, I AM THE PRIME MINISTER."

2. UANC SOURCES REPORTEDLY TOLD TIMES CORRESPONDENT THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN "AGREEMENT ON POLICY" OVER THE FUTURE OF THE SECURITY FORCES. POLICY MADE PROVISION FOR A GENERAL CONFIDENTIAL

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AMNESTY FOR GUERRILLA FIGHTERS WHO WOULD BE OFFERED GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO RETURN TO CIVILIAN LIFE OR BE ABSORBED INTO A "RESTRUCTURED ARMY AFTER SUITABLE SCREENING".

3. INTERVIEWED IN LUSAKA, JOSHUA NKOMO BITTELY AND ANGRILY DENOUNCED THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT, SAYING THERE WAS NO HOPE THAT HE WOULD CALL OFF THE WAR. THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT IDEA HAD BEEN FORMULATED LONG AGO BY BRITAIN, HE SAID. "AFTER GENEVA, THE BRITISH CAME WITH TWO PLANS. THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN ABOVE THE TABLE AND UNDER THE TABLE ONE WITH THE BISHOP."

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COMMENT: ALTHOUGH DISJOINED IN PRESENTATION, THIS ARTICLE STRIKES US AS ACCURATELY POINTING UP THE LIMITS OF AGREEMENT REACHED IN SALISBURY AND HOW RESTRICTED SMITH IS IN HIS CONCEPTION OF TURNING OVER POWER. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE OF THE "AGREED POLICY" FOR ABSORBING THE GUERRILLAS INTO A RESTRUCTURED ARMY AFTER PROPER SCREENING. IF THIS IS AN AGREED POLICY, IT OFFERS LITTLE IN THE WAY OF ATTRACTION FOR THE GUERRILLAS TO GIVE UP THE STRUGGLE AND APPEARS TO MAKE FEW CONCESSIONS TO THE IDEA OF

AFRICANIZING THE ARMY.

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